

Appln. No. 10/700,955

Amendment dated April 28, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed February 24, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) A fishing pole holder mounting system for permitting fishing rod holders to be positioned adjacent a rear of a boat, the fishing pole holder mounting system comprising:

a support member comprising a medial portion and a plurality of mounting portions, said medial portion being positioned between said mounting portions, said mounting portions of said support member being adapted for being selectively coupled to the boat such that said medial portion of said support member extends along the rear of the boat, said medial portion being adapted for being selectively engaged by the fishing rod holders such that said medial portion supports fishing rods placed in the fishing rod holders and allowing the fishing rods to extend outwardly from the rear of the boat, said medial portion being coupled to said mounting portions at an angle to allow said medial portion to be positioned above the rear of the boat;

~~each of a pair of mounting members being selectively~~  
~~each of a pair of~~  
~~mounting members being selectively coupled to one of said mounting~~  
portions of said support member, said mounting members being adapted for  
being positioned adjacent a first side of one of a plurality of cleats of the  
boat such that one of said mounting portions is positioned adjacent a second  
side of the associated one of the cleats with the second side being  
positioned opposite the first side of the associated one of the cleats, each of  
said mounting members and the associated one of the mounting portions  
being adapted for clamping around the associated one of the cleats to mount

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said support member to the boat when said mounting members are coupled to said mounting portions of said support member and are positioned adjacent their respective first and second sides of the cleats; and

each of said mounting members comprising a plurality of horizontal bores such that said horizontal bores extend through the associated one of said mounting members, each of said mounting portions of said support member comprising a plurality of horizontal apertures such that said horizontal apertures extend through the associated one of said mounting portions, said horizontal bores of each of said mounting members being aligned with said horizontal apertures of the associated one of said mounting portion when said mounting members and said mounting portions are clamping horizontally mounted cleats of the boat, each of a plurality of fasteners being selectively extended through one of said horizontal bores and an aligned one of said horizontal apertures such that said fasteners secure said mounting members to said mounting portions to clamp the cleats between said mounting members and said mounting portions of said support member when said mounting members and said mounting portions are clamping horizontally mounted cleats of the boat.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The fishing pole holder system as set forth in claim 3, further comprising:

each of said mounting members comprising a plurality of vertical bores such that said vertical bores extend through the associated one of said mounting members, each of said mounting portions of said support member comprising a plurality of vertical apertures such that said vertical apertures extend through the associated one of said mounting portions, said vertical

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bores of each of said mounting members being aligned with said vertical apertures of the associated one of said mounting portion when said mounting members and said mounting portions are clamping the vertically mounted cleats of the boat, each of said fasteners being selectively extended through one of said vertical bores and an aligned one of said vertical apertures such that said fasteners secure said mounting members to said mounting portions to clamp the cleats between said mounting members and said mounting portions of said support member when said mounting members and said mounting portions are clamping vertically mounted cleats of the boat.

5. (Cancelled)

3 ~~6~~. (Original) The fishing pole holder system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a brace member being selectively coupled to said medial portion of said support member, said brace member being adapted for extending between said support member and a hull of the boat such that said brace member is for inhibiting said support member bending downward and striking the boat.

9 ~~8~~. (Original) The fishing pole holder system as set forth in claim <sup>3</sup>~~6~~, further comprising:

said brace member comprising a support aperture, said support aperture extending through said brace member, said support aperture being for receiving said support member such that said support member extends through said brace member.

5 ~~8~~. (Original) The fishing pole holder system as set forth in claim <sup>4</sup>~~7~~, further comprising:

said brace member comprising a set aperture, said set aperture extending through said brace member into said support aperture of said

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brace member, said set aperture of said brace member threadably receiving a set fastener such that said set fastener selectively extends through said brace member and into said support aperture, said set fastener being for abutting against said support member extending through said support aperture of said brace member to secure said support member to said brace member and inhibit sliding of said brace member with respect to said support member.

6. (Currently Amended) The fishing pole holder system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

said support member being substantially U-shaped, said support member being adapted for substantially matching a perimeter of ~~the~~ a rear of ~~the~~ a hull of the boat.

7. (Currently Amended) A fishing pole holder mounting system for permitting fishing rod holders to be positioned adjacent a rear of a boat, the fishing pole holder mounting system comprising:

a support member comprising a medial portion and a plurality of mounting portions, said medial portion being positioned between said mounting portions, said mounting portions of said support member being adapted for being selectively coupled to the boat such that said medial portion of said support member extends along the rear of the boat, said medial portion being adapted for being selectively engaged by the fishing rod holders such that said medial portion supports fishing rods placed in the fishing rod holders and allowing the fishing rods to extend outwardly from the rear of the boat, said medial portion being coupled to said mounting portions at an angle to allow said medial portion to be positioned above the rear of the boat;

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each of a pair of mounting members being selectively coupled to one of said mounting portions of said support member, said mounting members being adapted for being positioned adjacent a first side of one of the a plurality of cleats of the boat such that one of said mounting portions is positioned ~~opposite the associated one of said mounting members~~ adjacent a second side of the associated one of the cleats with the second side being positioned opposite the first side of the associated one of the cleats, each of said mounting members and the associated one of the mounting portions being adapted for clamping around the associated one of the cleats to mount said support member to the boat when said mounting members are coupled to said mounting portions of said support member and are positioned adjacent their respective first and second sides of the cleats;

each of said mounting members comprising a plurality of horizontal bores such that said horizontal bores extend through the associated one of said mounting members, each of said mounting portions of said support member comprising a plurality of horizontal apertures such that said horizontal apertures extend through the associated one of said mounting portions, said horizontal bores of each of said mounting members being aligned with said horizontal apertures of the associated one of said mounting portion when said mounting members and said mounting portions are clamping ~~the horizontally mounted cleats of the boat~~, each of a plurality of fasteners being selectively extended through one of said horizontal bores and an aligned one of said horizontal apertures such that said fasteners secure said mounting members to said mounting portions to clamp the cleats between said mounting members and said mounting portions of said support member when said mounting members and said mounting portions are clamping the horizontally mounted cleats of the boat;

each of said mounting members comprising a plurality of vertical bores such that said vertical bores extend through the associated one of said

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mounting members, each of said mounting portions of said support member comprising a plurality of vertical apertures such that said vertical apertures extend through the associated one of said mounting portions, said vertical bores of each of said mounting members being aligned with said vertical apertures of the associated one of said mounting portion when said mounting members and said mounting portions are clamping the vertically mounted cleats of the boat, each of said fasteners being selectively extended through one of said vertical bores and an aligned one of said vertical apertures such that said fasteners secure said mounting members to said mounting portions to clamp the cleats between said mounting members and said mounting portions of said support member when said mounting members and said mounting portions are clamping the vertically mounted cleats of the boat;

a brace member being selectively coupled to said medial portion of said support member, said brace member being adapted for extending between said support member and a hull of the boat such that said brace member is for inhibiting said support member bending downward and striking the boat;

said brace member comprising a support aperture, said support aperture extending through said brace member, said support aperture being for receiving said support member such that said support member extends through said brace member;

said brace member comprising a set aperture, said set aperture extending through said brace member into said support aperture of said brace member, said set aperture of said brace member threadably receiving a set fastener such that said set fastener selectively extends through said brace member and into said support aperture, said set fastener being for abutting against said support member extending through said support aperture of said brace member to secure said support member to said brace

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member and inhibit sliding of said brace member with respect to said support member; and

said support member being substantially U-shaped, said support member being adapted for substantially matching a perimeter of the rear of the hull of the boat.

New Claims:

811. (New) A fishing pole holder mounting system for permitting fishing rod holders to be positioned adjacent a rear of a boat, the fishing pole holder mounting system comprising:

a support member comprising a medial portion and a plurality of mounting portions, said medial portion being positioned between said mounting portions, said mounting portions of said support member being adapted for being selectively coupled to the boat such that said medial portion of said support member extends along the rear of the boat, said medial portion being adapted for being selectively engaged by the fishing rod holders such that said medial portion supports fishing rods placed in the fishing rod holders and allowing the fishing rods to extend outwardly from the rear of the boat, said medial portion being coupled to said mounting portions at an angle to allow said medial portion to be positioned above the rear of the boat;

each of a pair of mounting members being ~~selective~~~~each of a pair of~~~~mounting members being~~ selectively coupled to one of said mounting portions of said support member, said mounting members being adapted for being positioned adjacent a first side of one of a plurality of cleats of the boat such that one of said mounting portions is positioned adjacent a second side of the associated one of the cleats with the second side being

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positioned opposite the first side of the associated one of the cleats, each of said mounting members and the associated one of the mounting portions being adapted for clamping around the associated one of the cleats to mount said support member to the boat when said mounting members are coupled to said mounting portions of said support member and are positioned adjacent their respective first and second sides of the cleats; and

each of said mounting members comprising a plurality of vertical bores such that said vertical bores extend through the associated one of said mounting members, each of said mounting portions of said support member comprising a plurality of vertical apertures such that said vertical apertures extend through the associated one of said mounting portions, said vertical bores of each of said mounting members being aligned with said vertical apertures of the associated one of said mounting portion when said mounting members and said mounting portions are clamping the vertically mounted cleats of the boat, each of a plurality of fasteners being selectively extended through one of said vertical bores and an aligned one of said vertical apertures such that said fasteners secure said mounting members to said mounting portions to clamp the cleats between said mounting members and said mounting portions of said support member when said mounting members and said mounting portions are clamping vertically mounted cleats of the boat.

9 ~~12~~. (New) The fishing pole holder system as set forth in claim ~~11~~<sup>8</sup>, further comprising:

a brace member being selectively coupled to said medial portion of said support member, said brace member being adapted for extending between said support member and a hull of the boat such that said brace member is for inhibiting said support member bending downward and striking the boat.



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10 ~~13~~. (New) The fishing pole holder system as set forth in claim ~~12~~<sup>9</sup>, further comprising:

said brace member comprising a support aperture, said support aperture extending through said brace member, said support aperture being for receiving said support member such that said support member extends through said brace member.

11 ~~14~~. (New) The fishing pole holder system as set forth in claim ~~13~~<sup>10</sup>, further comprising:

said brace member comprising a set aperture, said set aperture extending through said brace member into said support aperture of said brace member, said set aperture of said brace member threadably receiving a set fastener such that said set fastener selectively extends through said brace member and into said support aperture, said set fastener being for abutting against said support member extending through said support aperture of said brace member to secure said support member to said brace member and inhibit sliding of said brace member with respect to said support member.

12 ~~15~~. (New) The fishing pole holder system as set forth in claim ~~14~~<sup>8</sup>, further comprising:

said support member being substantially U-shaped, said support member being adapted for substantially matching a perimeter of a rear of a hull of the boat.